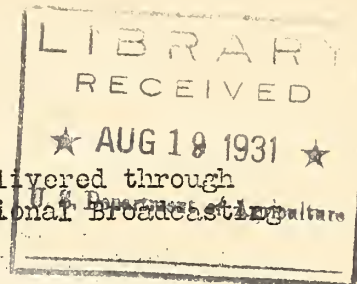


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JULY WEATHER



A radio talk by J.B. Kincer, Weather Bureau, delivered through WRC and 43 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, August 5, 1931.

July was a trying month, principally because of the abnormal heat in most sections of the country. It was one of the hottest months of record, with temperatures above normal nearly everywhere. Rainfall for the month was mostly above normal in the Eastern States, from the Carolinas and northern Georgia northward, and the generous falls near its close brought the monthly totals above normal over much of the central Rocky Mountain area and parts of the northern Great Plains, the latter including considerable portions of North Dakota and Montana. Otherwise, while there were a few localities with more than normal, rainfall was mostly deficient.

The outstanding feature of July weather, until near its close, was the continued deficiency of rainfall in the Northwest and more western States. From time to time local showers occurred in these areas, but the beneficial effects were not lasting because of the high temperatures and the extreme dryness of the subsoil. Until the rains near the close of the month, the drought centered in northern and western North Dakota and eastern Montana and included, to a greater or less extent, South Dakota, Nebraska, central and western Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, northern Iowa, parts of Missouri, and, in addition, most of the western Mountain States. Spring wheat and other small grains and pastures suffered most, and, in addition, grasshoppers have been destructive in many places. Much spring grain in the Northwest has been cut for hay, and feeding of livestock has been necessary in many localities. East of the Mississippi River, except for local dryness, principally in the Ohio Valley and Michigan, the weather of July was mostly favorable, and crops made satisfactory advance, as a rule.

July this year, compared with July last year, had rather similar temperature conditions, but there was a marked contrast with regard to rainfall. Most States east of the Rocky Mountains had much more rain this July, with many sections in the central valleys and East, where only one-fourth to less than half the normal occurred in July, 1930, having this year near normal or even more than normal.

During the last few days generous rains occurred over the Northwest and Rocky Mountain sections. The States most benefiting include Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, and the Rocky Mountain area to the southward. In these, helpful rains were rather general, with much relief to growing vegetation, especially late truck, garden crops, and pasture lands. There were good showers also in less extensive areas, including parts of South Dakota, eastern Kansas, Oklahoma, northwestern Texas, Arkansas, considerable portions of the South, and some east-central districts, notably West Virginia and near-by sections. Missouri and Nebraska were largely missed, and most growing crops continue to deteriorate. Some Missouri stations, however, report heavy rainfall this morning. The Ohio Valley received only scattered showers and considerable areas in Kentucky and Tennessee are still needing rain, while local sections to the northward as far as southern Michigan are

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becoming very dry. The Atlantic area continues in fairly favorable condition, though some localities need moisture, principally southern New Jersey, eastern Maryland, and Delaware. Excellent growing conditions continue in the more northeastern States. A good general rain is needed from the lower Missouri and central Mississippi Valleys eastward to the Atlantic Ocean, and also in the west-central Great Plains. It continued extremely hot and dry in the Great Basin of the West, with reports of irrigation water exhausted and hauling necessary for livestock and domestic use.

In the northwestern portion of the country the corn crop, where not too badly damaged by heat and drought, has been improved by recent rains. This includes principally the States of Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, and parts of South Dakota. The rain came too late to benefit corn in portions of South Dakota and northern Iowa, and much will make only fodder in the former State. There was but little rain in Nebraska, and corn is losing ground rapidly, while much injury is reported from central Kansas and the uplands of Missouri. In general the crop has held fairly well in most of the Ohio Valley, especially in Ohio, but a good many localities in this area, including southern Michigan, are becoming dry, with reports of curling and firing. In the more eastern States corn is making satisfactory progress.

Warm weather prevailed during the past week in the eastern Cotton Belt, but otherwise temperatures were mostly moderate, and rainfall was largely of a local character, though rather heavy in some central and north-eastern sections of the belt. In general, the weather was rather favorable for cotton, except for too much moisture in parts of the Mississippi Valley and locally elsewhere, which was favorable for weevil activity, rank growth at the expense of fruiting, and some shedding.

The present growing season since the first of March has had normal rainfall, or somewhat above normal, rather generally from North Carolina northward, including West Virginia, and also locally in the Ohio Valley, the upper Lake region, and the South. In all other sections east of the Rocky Mountains it has been below normal, with considerable areas having less than three-fourths the normal amount. The Northwest, centering in Western North Dakota and eastern Montana has had the greatest shortages. However, over the central valleys and middle Atlantic area, which were severely affected by the drought last year, rainfall has been decidedly heavier than a year ago. The following figures showing the percentage of normal for representative stations for these five months last year and for this year afford a comparison for the two seasons, the first figures in each case representing the 1930 data: Des Moines, Iowa, 67-92; Columbia, Mo., 47-75; Springfield, Ill., 45-91; Columbus, Ohio, 41-94; Louisville, Ky., 29-69; Parkersburg, W. Va., 47-101; Washington, D.C., 69-89; and Lynchburg, Va., 50-114.